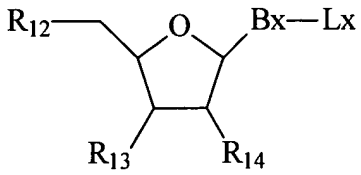
Please replace the paragraph on page 16, beginning at line 7, with the following replacement paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment the oligomeric compounds of the invention have the formula:

$$5'\text{-}(Nu_1\text{-}L_1)_n\text{-}Y\text{-}(L_2\text{-}Nu_2)_p\text{-}3'$$

wherein:

each Nu_1 and Nu_2, independently, has the formula:



wherein

Bx is a heterocyclic base moiety;

Lx is hydrogen, a protecting group or a substituent group;

one of R_{12}, R_{13} and R_{14} is hydroxyl, a protected hydroxyl, a covalent attachment to a solid support, a nucleoside, an oligonucleoside, a nucleotide, an oligonucleotide, a conjugate group or an optionally protected substituent group;

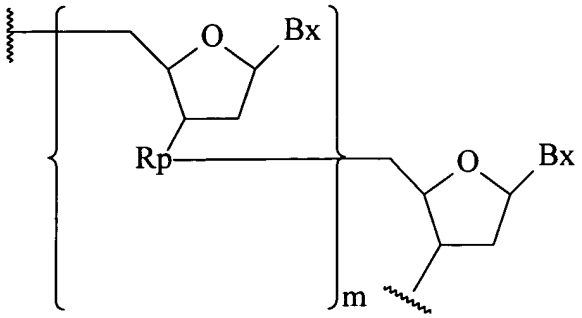
another of R_{12}, R_{13} and R_{14} is hydrogen, hydroxyl, a protected hydroxyl or an optionally protected substituent group;

the remaining of R_{12}, R_{13} and R_{14} of Nu_1, is L_1;

the remaining of R_{12}, R_{13} and R_{14} of Nu_2, is L_2;

each L_1 and each L_2 is, independently, a phosphodiester internucleoside linkage or a modified internucleoside linkage;

Y has the formula:



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wherein:

each Rp is a chiral Rp phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage; and

each n, m and p is, independently, from 1 to 100; where the sum of n, m and p is from 3 to about 200;

with the proviso that at least one of R_{12}, R_{13}, R_{14} and Lx is a substituent group or at least one of L_1 and L_2 is a modified internucleoside linkage.

Please replace the paragraph on page 84, beginning at line 11, with the following replacement paragraph:

SEQ ID NO: 5 was used in a comparative study to determine the effect of chiral internucleotide linkages at predetermined positions compared to the same sequence having racemic linkages at each position. The capillary gel electrophoretic analysis indicated the relative nuclease resistance of Chiral 3'-Sp- capped oligomers compared to ISIS 3082 (XVI,uniform 2'-deoxy phosphorothioate). Because of the resistance of Sp linkage to nucleases, Compounds XVII and XVIII are found to be stable in plasma, kidney and liver while XVI (3082) is not. On the other hand, the data from 5',-3'-bis Sp capped oligomers show total exonucleolytic stability in plasma as well as in tissues (liver and kidney). Compounds are stable at various time points such as 1, 3, and 24 hours. The fact that no degradation is detected proved that 5'-exonucleases and 3'-exonuclease are prevalent in tissues and endonucleases are not active. Furthermore, a single chiral linkage (Sp thioate linkage) is sufficient as a gatekeeper against nucleases at the termini.

A3

In the Claims:

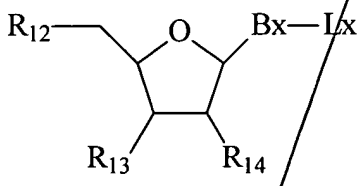
Please amend claims 23 and 43 to read as follows:

23. (Amended) An oligomeric compound of the formula:

$$5'\text{-}(Nu_1\text{-}L_1)_n\text{-}Y\text{-}(L_2\text{-}Nu_2)_p\text{-}3'$$

wherein:

each Nu_1 and Nu_2, independently, has the formula:



wherein

Bx is a heterocyclic base moiety;

Lx is hydrogen, a protecting group or a substituent group;

one of R_{12}, R_{13} and R_{14} is hydroxyl, a protected hydroxyl, a covalent attachment to a solid support, a nucleoside, an oligonucleoside, a nucleotide, an oligonucleotide, a conjugate group or an optionally protected substituent group;

another of R_{12}, R_{13} and R_{14} is hydrogen, hydroxyl, a protected hydroxyl or an optionally protected substituent group;

the remaining of R_{12}, R_{13} and R_{14}, of Nu_1, is L_1;

the remaining of R_{12}, R_{13} and R_{14}, of Nu_2, is L_2;

each L_1 and each L_2 is, independently, a phosphodiester internucleoside linkage or a modified internucleoside linkage;

Y has the formula: